

# Indiana State Sentinel.

WEEKLY EDITION.

INDIANAPOLIS, JANUARY 1, 1846.

## The Small Note Law.

The Legislature of 1840-41, granted to the State Bank the privilege of issuing small notes, under certain restrictions. The grant of this right is contained in two acts. The first was approved Feb. 6, 1841, and the second, which is an amendment of the first, was approved Feb. 13, 1841. The 6th section of the act of Feb. 6, is as follows:

"It shall be lawful for the State Bank of Indiana to issue and circulate notes of a denomination less than five dollars, to an amount not exceeding one million of dollars."

This provision in the same and subsequent section, is guarded by five provisos or conditions; and the Bank had no right to issue small notes, under the Statute, only in compliance with the terms of each and all of the provisos.

Two of the conditions are as follows:

First: "That this privilege shall be subject to the control of the General Assembly, from and after the 29th of January, 1844."

Second: "The Bank shall pay into the Treasury of State, one per centum for the amount of notes under the denomination of five dollars, hereby authorized to be issued, to be paid in three annual installments, beginning with the current year."

The 7th section of the Act of Feb. 13, is as follows:

"That the privilege of issuing notes of a less denomination than five dollars, granted the Bank by its General Assembly, be, and the same is hereby enlarged, so as to run from the 1st day of January, 1841, through a period of five years; and the trouble and responsibility of the State Bank, in managing and collecting the funds herein provided for being converted into Bank stock, shall be deemed and taken as in full consideration of the one per centum required to be paid by the Bank to the State, on the amount of small notes, which the Bank has been by the General Assembly authorized to issue; and nothing in said Act authorizing the Bank to issue small notes, shall be so construed as to authorize the taxation of any Bank stock, which has not been heretofore subject to taxation."

Here we see that the Legislature first granted a privilege, and by a subsequent act enlarged it. The privilege was to issue small notes. One will not contend that the Bank had, or has the right to issue small notes independently of one or both of those acts. The provisions of the Act of Feb. 6, authorized the Bank to issue small notes, upon the payment of the one per centum tax. Whether that provision to issue small notes is limited as to time, is now unnecessary to enquire. We shall see that it is a matter of no importance. The Bank was bound to accept of it, if at all, with certain conditions. This it refused to do, and never issued one note under the Act of Feb. 6. It refused to pay the one per cent. tax, or bonus.

The Act of Feb. 13, enlarged the privilege. How! So as to run from the first day of January, 1841, (so that) the trouble and responsibility of managing and collecting the funds, should be in full consideration of the one per cent. tax. Here is an exclusive and valuable franchise conferred, and a tax remitted. The first offer having been rejected, the second was accepted. The Bank issued all her small notes under the Act of Feb. 13, and the provisions of the 7th section of that Act, as a bribe by their own limitation on the 1st day of January, 1846.

But it may be said, that as the first Act did not limit the time during which the Bank might issue small notes, the mention of five years in the second Act does not limit the time. Let us examine this point.

The Legislature first said to the Bank, you may issue small notes to any amount not exceeding one million of dollars, upon condition that you pay into the Treasury one per centum upon the amount authorized to be issued, in three annual installments; and, we reserve the right, at the end of three years, to make such other regulations as we think proper. The Bank replies,—"we will not accept of that; make another and better proposition." The State then proposes that the Bank may issue the same amount of small notes for the period of five years, and that the Bank shall assume the trouble and responsibility of managing and collecting the funds therein provided for being converted into Bank stock, to-wit: the surplus revenue, sinking, college, and saline fund; and the State Bank school fund; and this trouble and responsibility shall be in full consideration (compensation or satisfaction) for the one per centum required in the first proposition. The Bank accepts the last proposition, issues the notes, and takes charge of the funds to be converted into Bank stock.

Now we think that the Bank had no right to issue small notes, except by the provisions of the 7th section of the Act of Feb. 13. But if the 6th section of the Act of Feb. 6, is still open for the Bank's acceptance, then it must pay one per cent. tax or bonus as required thereby. We think the first Act is not still open for the Bank's acceptance. The Bank has exercised the right of choosing; it refused the first offer and accepted the second, and must abide by the choice. In doing this, the Bank assumed the responsibility and trouble of collecting and managing the public funds. The 12th section shows that the responsibility the Bank assumed was, not to be liable for the then existing securities, but for the trouble, care, and diligence required in collecting and managing the funds. This responsibility the Bank assumed when the small notes were issued. According to this view of the law, the right to issue small notes expires with the five years, and the board of Bank directors is bound to show that it has undertaken the collection and management of the various funds; that it has used due diligence in such collection and management; and, so far as the board has managed the funds under the law of 1841, it must show that the funds have not been diminished on account of want of care or diligence, or by any charge for the trouble or expense in the collection and management of them. The right to issue small notes was in full consideration for all such services.

The Chapman cannot drive us into the attitude of Bank defenders.—*Morrison's Bank Organ.*

That is quite cool, indeed! Especially when the same paper containing the above extract, contains columns in the Bank's defence, from the head and tail of the Royal Family.

But suppose the quotation above to be in *earnest* and *truth*. Has A. F. Morrison found out anything against the Bank that he does not desire to be its defender? "Straws show," it is said, "which way the wind blows." He probably begins to "smell a rat!" All at once! He does not wish to be a "defender" of the Bank! Is he afraid of the "rat-tat-tat" article? Has any thing been "let out" at his bank, or in the Royal Parlor? Morrison! A. F. Morrison! refusing to be a defender of the Bank! That will make Senator Todd laugh right out! Saw our legs off! if you please!

Reports are prevalent of a new revolutionary movement in Mexico—that Parades was marching towards the city of Mexico from St. Louis Potosi, with 5000 men—that the ground of his pronouncement is that the Mexican Government is likely to agree to the annexation of Texas with us,—and that the movement is supposed to be the result of foreign influence.

## Public Debt—Joint Committee.

The joint committee on the Public Debt, to whom Mr. Butler's communication, in behalf of foreign bondholders, was referred, have not yet closed their labors.

This committee is composed of 24 members, 12 appointed by each branch of the Legislature, and taken from the twelve judicial circuits into which the State is divided; thus embodying, as nearly as could be, the sentiment of the entire people of the State. The subject referred to them is one of the greatest interest, and involves the hopes of the people of the entire State. The committee, it is understood, have had five meetings for conference with Mr. Butler, during which he has had full opportunity of laying the great object of his mission before them, and submitting such propositions for adjustment as seemed to him best adapted to effect the object. It was useless to submit propositions beyond the ability of the People of Indiana to meet; and the subject is one involved in great difficulty, in every respect in which it may be viewed.

It is understood that the conference on the part of the Agent of the Bondholders was closed at the meeting held in the Senate Chamber on Friday last, when the last and modified proposition was submitted by Mr. Butler. The first proposition was acted on by the committee on Thursday, and rejected.

It is needless to say that the final report of the committee on the proposition now pending before them, is looked for with intense interest by the people of Indiana. It will be an auspicious beginning of the New Year, if the Legislature shall, at its present session, adjust the Public Debt, and reinstate the credit and honor of the State. It was in the session of 1835-36, just ten years ago, when Whiggery flourished—that the foundation of all this difficulty was laid. It will be a happy thing if in 1845-46 the breach shall be healed—if Democracy shall point out a path from the Slough of Despond, and return to Indiana her wonted prosperity.

## Bank Favors.

The Royal Family try to make it appear that we have been applicants for bank favors here, and have been refused. This is not true. We did, indeed, while at Terre Haute, have several notes discounted, which were all paid; and bitterly have we lamented that we ever went thus far. Here, our note to individuals, for the payment of a portion of the debt of the old Democrat establishment has been put in bank, and it has been paid. Also, we have, in one instance, anticipated a payment from the Sinking Fund, to the amount of about one hundred dollars, the money being in the bank, and paid interest therefor. If the Royal Family know of any other applications of ours to the bank, let them name them.

We allude to this matter, not because it is worthy of notice more than their other false charges, but because it affects us in a more tender point. Could the Family have got us in their clutches by means of indebtedness to them, we might now be in a fair way to be placed in the same predicament of some others whom we could name. Lots and corner lots, farms and homesteads, even if purchased for us by our fathers; nay, our very weekly earnings might have gone to enrich those who never toiled, and to have paid for Extra Regalias and Wine Parties, for the Royal Family to entertain their cliques. We have been too independent of them in these matters, and hence their hostility. We believe that an honest living got by the sweat of the brow, in far better than a dishonest one got by intrigue, swindling, or by the turn of a card or dice. We enjoy it better, at all events. Nor does such honest, though hard, labor, in any way tend to make us rogues. It does not smother robbery or larceny; and has no tendency to make us commit such crimes. We have no doubt, however, even although the Royal Family would, if they could, control the Branch Bank here, and they have some considerable influence in it at this time, that our note would pass much quicker than A. F. Morrison's. But we ask for such favors; at least at present. We have an income, small though it be, with which we intend to pay our debts, without either swindling the banks, or threatening to do so; and without, after paying our employees, depending on a game of poker to win back their earnings.

We desire not this warfare; but lies, either direct or by implication, shall not go uncontradicted.

The Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office is one of the best practical documents issued from that office since Whitcomb's administration of it. We regret that we are unable to publish it entire, or even to notice its recommendations in full. Among the most important may be named the classification of the public lands, which the Commissioner says, can, with an inconsiderable additional force, be completed in six months. This measure would be of the greatest benefit to the actual settler. He recommends that lands brought into market hereafter should graduate through these classes in such a manner as to continue subject to sale five years at \$1 25; five more at \$1 50; five more at \$2 00; five more at \$2 50; five more at \$3 00; and all the residue remaining undisturbed after passing through this series of graduations should forever be in the States.

This will constitute, he says, a species of sliding scale which will glean and clean out districts, and give the new States, within a reasonable time, the control of the lands within their limits. It will vest 420,329 acres in Ohio; 1,235,095 in Indiana; 3,965,104 in Illinois; 2,307,225 in Missouri; 4,146,873 in Mississippi; 1,141,605 in Louisiana; 4,510,995 in Alabama; and 27,426 in Michigan. We will endeavor to refer further to this report.

ELECTION OF BANK DIRECTORS.—On yesterday, the Legislature elected Directors of the State Bank of the part of the State. Gen. Walker was re-elected to serve four years, and John F. Carr, Esq. to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Col. Pepper. They are both Democrats.

On Tuesday Mr. Clymer reported an appropriation bill from the House committee. We understand that some delay was occasioned by an equal division of the committee on certain propositions, that finally the matter was left to a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Clymer, and Mr. Stewart of Fayette, who agreed to report the bill now before the House.

The analysis of the vote in House on the admission of Texas, shows this result: Of the 141 votes, 120 are Democrats, 20 Whigs and 1 Native. Of the 50 nayes, 48 are Whigs, 5 Natives, and 3 Democrats.—Messrs. Preston King, Wheaton, and Wood of N. Y.

The Indiana Delegation voted as follows:

YEA—Cathcart, Henley, Owen, Pettit; T. Smith, and Wick.

NAY—McCaughy and C. B. Smith.

A writer in the Journal of Commerce says the recent activity in the docks and naval stations in England, has no reference to any new occurrence, or an anticipated war, but is in accordance with the recommendation of Sir Robert Peel, a year ago. He then obtained an appropriation for the repair and completion of military works for the defence of England—the first appropriation for the purpose which has been made for eleven years.

## A Single Item under the Bankrupt Law.

The New York Express publishes the following: We have been favored by S. W. Metcalf, Esq., Clerk of the U. S. District Court, with the following interesting statement of the aggregate debts owing by persons who petitioned for the benefit of the bankrupt act in this city, the professions or trades to which they belong—the highest and lowest amount of schedule, &c. The statement has been compiled with immense labor by Mr. Kingsberry, an experienced and very able clerk in the office. The whole amount, it will be perceived, is upwards of \$120,000,000. The largest estate in bankruptcy was that of Mr. Glover, being upwards of \$3,000,000—but a large proportion of it was bonds given for foreign merchants, which had become outlawed by the statute of limitations. The next estimate was that of Messrs. Joseph, being about \$1,000,000. The assets from the various estates were exceedingly trifling.

Whole number of bankrupts petitioning, 2468  
do petitioning against, 84

Whole number 2552  
Number discharged 2160  
Not yet discharged 390  
Opposed by creditors 356

They describe themselves as follows:

Merchants 723 Agents 31  
Clerks 403 Physicians 19  
Mechanics 372 Lawyers 15  
No occupation 161 Office-holders 15  
Brokers 85 Auctioneers 12  
Farmers 47 Laborers 11  
Gentlemen 40 Victuallers 11  
Other occupations 490

Residing in the city of New York 1000  
do out of the city 650

There are 40 petitioners whose debts are each under \$1,000

There are 228 petitioners whose debts are each over 100,000

There are 12 petitioners whose debts are each over 1,000,000

The total amount of indebtedness is about 120,580,415

The largest amount in one petition is about 5,781,000

The lowest amount in one petition is about 258 25

Thus we see that in one judicial district, under the Bankrupt Law passed by the WHIG CONGRESS of 1841-42, over one hundred and twenty millions of dollars of debts were repudiated—yet some of the same bankrupts live in fine houses, and fare sumptuously every day.

Look Out.—From certain demonstrations, for which there may be one hundred and sixty reasons; and from the barking threats current on the street on Tuesday and since, we expect to see the next Royal Family Gazette represent a Great Conflagration. It will charge us, "individually and collectively," with most of the crimes in the calendar. If Morrison keeps his promise, he will charge us with having murdered two men, stabbed a woman, violated others, with arson, (perhaps) gambling, (no not gambling,) except, perhaps, a bet of three dollars on the election, where he held the stakes, (and which is not a fraction of what we won from our good whig friends) and with cards on cards of what will so naturally occur to the prolific mind of the family so deeply versed in the law and trials criminal. Well, we promise that we will not go to the Bluffs, on a fishing excursion, either now or when the Grand Jury is in session. We have stood many a lick before now from those accustomed to oppose us; and in general we only noticed those of men. We may perhaps be enabled to bear up under this terrible coming shower of froth. However, as Morrison's wrath may lead him to be careless or forgetful, we suggest to him whether he has thought of republishing, in a re-vamped style so peculiarly his own, Nigger Barnett's charges against us, and perhaps our true charges against that splendid genius, *reversed*! Major Dunn, one of the family, tried his hand at it; and if a copy is wanting and cannot be obtained from the Journal Office, we may possibly condescend to furnish it ourselves.

Go ahead, old boy. We are too old campaigners to throw away shot. The locker is yet well supplied.

CONSISTENCY.—Several of the small fry of whig papers are nearly in convulsions, because Congress chose to give fair and remunerating prices for the public printing, and rejected the offer of certain rats to do it under regular journeymen's wages. But these same sticklers for what they call economy, have never opened their lips about the arrangement made a few years since by a Whig Congress, by which forty thousand dollars extra were put in the pockets of Gales and Seaton; and they say as little about the Ohio Legislature, which has violated a solemn contract with the State Printer, because he was a democrat, and given it to a whig, at increased prices. The case is altered, as the lawyer said. Verily, these men are honest!

The Martinsville Journal will find, on proper examination, that its article headed "Delinquent Lists," is wrong in point of fact in every particular. At the very time it was complaining that "an effort was being made in the Legislature, to take from the local presses the patronage of their respective counties, and transfer it to the presses of the capital," the real state of the matter was just exactly the reverse; for Mr. Dowling had introduced a proposition in the House to authorize the publication of a portion of the Sinking Fund advertisements in the local papers of district immediately interested.

SHOCKING.—The whig editors are getting very generally out of humor with "villanous saltpetre," especially since war is talked about. They were in the same fix last war. But we have not heard of one so terribly alarmed as our little friend Grubbs, of the Indiana Courier, who, even goes against the boys firing squibs on holidays, and besides calling it a "Bad Practice," urges the law to step in to keep the awful smell of powder from his delicate olfactory! Hold on, John; we vouch your town boys shan't hurt you further than the smell, except perhaps, your feelings, by preparing themselves to fog your British friends.

BACK NUMBERS.—We must again inform our friends that our back numbers of the paper have long since been exhausted. We cannot possibly fill orders for them. We hope that all will see the necessity hereafter of having the paper regularly, or of sending for the session papers in season. We regret that we cannot supply them; but so it is.

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE.—We have a considerable number of the pamphlets on the Tariff, entitled "Facts for the People," which we would like to dispose of to our friends. Gentlemen of the Legislature desirous of furnishing their constituents with one of the best treatises of the day on the subject of the Tariff, can be supplied at cost.

THE INDIANA COURIER got into such a terrible stew, fret, sweat, and fright at Judge Wick's late letter, in our paper, intimating the probability of war, that after letting off his small amount of gas, he must certainly have been flat. For in his same paper, he publishes a whig letter, saying "that there is great danger of war, all reasonable persons admit." See. It is supposed that the editor has gone out entirely now.

A report was made in the Senate on Monday last, in favor of winding up the Lafayette and Michigan City branches of the State, on some charges of special rascality. We suppose there is no cause for alarm to any body; too many similar reports have heretofore ended in smoke.

## New Books.

TURNER has just received another lot of new books, among which are:

The Illuminated and Pictorial Bible, No. 43, containing the Gospel according to Mark and part of Luke.

The Illuminated and Illustrated Shakespeare, Nos. 71 and 72, containing Timon of Athens and Coriolanus.

Morse's Geographic Maps, No. 4, containing Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, and South Carolina.

Love and Mesmerism, by Horace Smith, Esq., one of the pleasantest writers of the day.

The Jew, a novel; being No. 31 of Harper's Library of Select Novels.

The Whiteboy: a story of Ireland in 1832; by that very agreeable writer, Mrs. S. C. Hall, whose name alone is a sufficient recommendation.

Only a Fiddler! or O. T. translated from the German by Mary Howitt. Very pleasant tales.

A Sequel to Webster's Elementary Spelling Book, or a Speller and Definer; containing a selection of 12,000 of the most useful words in the English language; intended to be used as a spelling book and a Dictionary. By Wm. G. Webster, son of the late Noah Webster, LL. D. This is one of the best common school dictionaries, ever published, and we should be glad to see it introduced generally into our primary schools. A glance will satisfy every teacher of its utility.

The Life of Mozart, including his correspondence; by Edward Holmes, author of "A Ramble among the Musicians of Germany;" forming the 6th volume of Harper's New Miscellany. This book will be read with interest by all admirers of genius, as well as the lovers of music and its great Masters.

Aids to English Composition, prepared for students of all grades; embracing specimens and examples of school and college exercises, and most of the higher departments of English Composition, both in prose and verse. By Richard Green Parker, A. M. This is one of the best books ever published on the subject of which it treats—a subject, which, though of as much or more importance to students than any other, is the most neglected, especially in the West.

We cannot recommend it too strongly to those who desire to improve or perfect themselves in the art of composition.

CRITICISM.

We have been much edified and amused this week, by reading two criticisms on Reid's *Gulzar*. The one is by Perkins, of the Jeffersonian; and the other by Clarkson, of the Indiana American, which, by the by, are perfect antipodes to one another.

The critique of Mr. Perkins, if not all praise, appears to have been written with the pen of friendship, and gives an accurate and honest description of the leading incidents of the work, as therein found. Clarkson opens in seeming candor, and attempts to give his views of the quality of the production; but he writes with a pen dipped in gall.

Perkins declares his esteem for the author—quotes the opening stanzas of the poem—says that the verse is graceful and flowing—the imagery rich, and the sentiments delicate and beautiful; and suggests that the lovers of song, at least, ought to patronize it for its own excellence, and from local pride that so fine a work is produced among them, &c. &c.

Clarkson, on the other hand, ridicules the poetry—laughs at the characters—sneers at the plot and incidents—declares that the taste and style of the work is bad—and asserts that his ear was pained by the harsh lines and ill-rhyming terminations with which it abounds, whilst his fingers would involuntarily single to count the irregular syllables, as they came rushing upon him. He also quotes from the poem several couplets, to prove his assertions, and to show that it is neither prose nor poetry, sense nor nonsense; and then very obligingly leaves his readers to decide for themselves what it is, after telling them what it is not.

Either the one or the other of these critiques must be unjust—which, we think the public can easily judge, from the feeling that is evidenced in the different criticisms.

But let us enquire, what is poetry? Does it consist only, as Mr. Clarkson would have it, in plot, in incident, in beauty of style or elegance of diction, and in the exact number of feet which serve to make complete rhythms? Most assuredly not: although these are necessary, in a great measure, to constitute a poem of the first order. The Novelist, and Dramatist, look to their plot as the chief object of their piece; the Historian to the accuracy of his facts, and perspicuity and elegance of his narration; but Poetry has its own language, its own imagery, its own thoughts and diction; for it is a universal maxim, that the chief gratification afforded from this kind of writing, arises from the beauty of the thoughts; and the true test is that which, to competent judges, affords the appropriate pleasure of Poetry.

Ungrammatical expressions, in a book, may or may not be the fault of the author; but although they are, still they do not destroy the poetry. They may pain the accurate grammatical ear, like the ill-rhyming terminations; but these are faults which all poets have been more or less charged with, and are the faults which Horace, in his "Art of Poetry," says he is not angry with, as they only tend to show human frailty or a careless hand, and ought to be excused, when the beauties are more in number.

A poet of the present day, and one of no small fame, writing of the duty of a poet, says that it is to keep alive the fealty of the heart, and to rouse the desponding, even when it has been banished by the despairing intellect; and with the sweet persuasion of a song, to awaken all the holiest feelings of the soul which had their existence in the days of our youth, ere the cold world laid, as with the breath of winter, nipped them in their bloom, leaving in their stead the frozen flowers of intellect, brilliant and beautiful if only to the eye of the stranger, but cold and unfeeling as the winter palaces of the Czar.

Such was the action of the world on the heart of Napoleon, making it almost as cold and feelingless as the polar iceberg; yet the evening bell of his native village, as its simple sounds fell mournfully on the ear of the world's conqueror, awoke in his bosom the early sympathies of his youth, and made him weep like a child.

Does the heart then feel any of those holier emotions in reading the *Gulzar* of Reid? Does the work inculcate virtue and discourage vice? Does it speak of the beautiful in the language of beauty, and appeal to the heart for the truth of its affections? Is the tear of sorrow ever found to start from its fountain at the recital of the wrongs of innocence, or does the feeling of anguish thrill the bosom at the triumph of crime?

If they do, then the work has accomplished what poetry intended, and although as a finished production, it may not compare with the *Lalla Rookh* of Moore, yet the *Gulzar* is a poem of no mean order, and the future will award it that place in the rank of genius, which the present may refuse to allow.

The critique of the *Journal* accords more with our opinion of the merits of the poem, when they say that "it much resembles *Lalla Rookh* in style, and in our judgment not much inferior to that, the best of Moore's productions."

An attempt was recently made to rob the Bank at Port Wayne, but the robbers got scared and ran.

## For the Indiana State Sentinel.

### A Gallop on the Grand Prairie.

By MRS. SARAH T. BOLTON.

Away we go on the boundless lea,  
Live untroubled on the deep blue sea;  
As billows, as fearless, as wild and free,  
On the Grand Prairie.

Away, away on our courser's feet,  
Where the grass is greenest and the sweetest,  
Where the earth and sky like lovers meet,  
On the Grand Prairie.

Now we are leaving the forest trees;  
Fling along like the fairy breeze,  
Distant building flowers and humming bees,  
On the Grand Prairie.

Now Sol comes up in his proud array:  
Look, look at those golden clouds that lay  
Like shining curls on the crown of day,  
On the Grand Prairie.

It is as if morning, fresh and fair,  
Threw back her tresses of yellow hair,  
To breathe the balm of the fragrant air,  
On the Grand Prairie.

And there, see there is a shining stream,  
Laughing along in the morning beam,  
A chain, a spell, a poet's dream,  
On the Grand Prairie.

On, on we speed, there is naught in sight,  
But the bending sky, so blue and bright,  
And the glowing, sparkling scene of light,  
On the Grand Prairie.

It seems to me that an angel hand  
Passed over the earth with a magic wand,  
And waded the beauties of fairy land  
To the Grand Prairie.

Oh! night, how glorious night must be,  
When the moon is bright, the sky is blue;  
When like stars like angel eyes look through  
On the Grand Prairie.

Tell not of your hills, so wild and high,  
Mountains that rise to the bright blue sky;  
I'd rather live and die on the Grand Prairie.

Keep, keep the city, the burgh, the town,  
Where the air is damp, the light is brown;  
Give me a spot where the sun looks down  
On the Grand Prairie.

Seek ye the mirth that the heart beguiles?  
You'll find it not in your marble piles;  
It dwells where the lips are wreathed in smiles  
On the Grand Prairie.

Want ye the happiness truth imports?  
Careless, string arms and noble hearts?  
Come ye away from your crowded marts  
To the Grand Prairie.

Sign ye for the love that true hearts prize;  
The kindly feelings that warm disguise?  
Then come where the soul looks through the eyes,  
On the Grand Prairie.

Would you see women as fresh and fair  
As wild flowers in their beauty are?  
Come, come from the sultry city's glare,  
To the Grand Prairie.

The oppressors tread my never stain  
The glooms soil the lovely plain,  
For liberty holds her court and reign  
On the Grand Prairie.

Awful Tragedy in Alabama.

One of the most horrible tragedies ever enacted in real life, occurred in Dallas county, Alabama, on the 29th ult., of which the "Alabama Independent" give the following account. We well recollect the bank robbery which was the prelude to all these dreadful crimes. It occurred but a few years ago.

Our readers will remember Thos. C. McKean, of Bank robbery memory. Previous to his outbreaking depredations, McKean, occupied a fair standing in community, being a highly respected citizen, and a man of unimpaired address. He succeeded in obtaining the affections of a young and artless school girl, in Marion, Perry county, and in opposition to the wishes and advice of her friends, ran off with and married her. This young and suspecting girl was the daughter of Mr. J. K. C. Pool, of Perry county. And amid all the hardships to which her connection with such a man as McKean subjected her, she remained firmly attached to him, and could not be prevailed upon to leave him, until the commission of the Columbus Bank robbery, from which time she has never seen him. Being intelligent and remarkably beautiful, and her friends having determined to procure her a divorce from her unfortunate marriage, she soon became an object of considerable attraction, and many have been the suitors for her hand. Among these was the unfortunate Bethel Holmes, a gentleman, highly respected, and esteemed in Dallas county, where he resided. On the evening of Saturday the 29th Nov., at the house of Col. Wm. H. Richardson, who had married the sister of Mrs. McKean, and where this unhappy lady was spending a portion of her time, Holmes perpetrated the horrid deed.

It seems that Holmes and Mrs. McKean were left alone in the parlor, and it is presumed that receiving a final rejection of his suit, he was seized with an unaccountable phrenzy, and shot Mrs. McKean with a pistol, the ball entering her heart, and then immediately shot himself. Col. Richardson had been out of the room but a short time when the report of the pistol induced him to return. He found the unfortunate lady already dead in her chair, and Holmes staggering in the floor—he also died soon after. Neither having spoken after the fatal deed, the particular matters that led to the denouement were not known. These are the facts as they have been enabled to gather concerning the transaction which has shocked an entire community, and filled a large circle of friends and relations with heartrending anguish, for both the unfortunate were greatly beloved.

The Mobile Herald of the 9th, gives an extract of a letter in which are full and more correct particulars of the above tragedy than we have been able to give.

"It seems from what we learn from other sources, that Holmes meditated this double murder for weeks. The letter says:—After dinner on Saturday, Holmes ordered his horse. After it was brought out, he told the servant girl to go up and fetch McKean. Immediately after she heard his exclamation, 'Lord have mercy on my soul,' and at the same moment a report of a pistol; then another and another, and a fall. She then opened the door, and saw him fall on the floor. The pistol had fallen out of his hand, and he was feeling to find it to fire again; she screamed to the boy who was holding the horse at the door, that Mr. Holmes had shot himself. She ran in and brought out the pistol, fearing that he would hold it of it. Unfortunately Mr. R. had gone to the gin-house, and Mrs. R. had also gone out to the yard. Two or three other persons happened to be riding by on horseback. They mounted and came into the house at the same moment that Mrs. and Mr. R. got there and all went in together. At first they did not see Mrs. McKean—she was sitting up in a rocking chair; she was shot right through the temple, (and died instantly), and from her position she must have held her with one hand, and shot her with the other. He then, it is supposed, aimed at his own temple, but pointed too high; for the ball glanced from the upper part of his head and lodged in the ceiling above. He then fired again, but too low for the temple; the ball entered below the cheek bone, tearing his face to pieces. They neither of them spoke. Mrs. McKean lived an hour and a half; he lived about three hours. On his person two letters were found, one directed to Major Poole, begging pardon for the act he had committed, and requesting him to have both bodies laid in one grave."

CONGRESSIONAL ANECDOTE.—During Mr. Jefferson's administration, syrup was provided in the capitol for the refreshment of the members of Congress. This was furnished and charged under the head of stationery.

The National Intelligencer tells us that a member who did not like the beverage, jocosely remarked that he should be very glad if the officers of the House would provide a little whiskey for those who preferred it, and charge it to the account of fuel.

HANDSOMELY DONE.—The members of Congress, rude and reckless as some of them are, appear at times to be swayed by a universal feeling of what is right and becoming—we may even say beautiful. An instance occurred during the allotment of the seats among the members, and is described by one of our correspondents in a letter. It happened that the name of Mr. ADAMS was almost last drawn, and more than a hundred members could have chosen the very eligible seat which he has occupied for several years; yet though many would have been very glad to have it, all passed it by, from respect to his supposed wishes and convenience, until, at last, his name was called—and, with a smile of grateful satisfaction, the venerable ex-President again took possession of his old quarters.

ADVICE TO MERCHANTS AND GIRLS.—Never refuse a good offer for a better market. The first certainty—the latter only hope.

## LAW OF INDIANA.

### AN ACT regulating the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace in the counties of Lake and Porter.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That an act entitled an act to regulate the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace in the counties of Lake and Porter, approved January 13, 1845, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

Section 2. That the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace in said counties of Lake and Porter, shall be regulated in all cases, by the provisions of the Revised Code of 1843. Provided, that all suits now commenced shall not be affected by the passage of this act.

Section 3. This act to be in force from and after its passage, and publication in the Indiana State Sentinel and in filing of a copy of this act in the clerk's and of the counties of Lake and Porter, and it is hereby made the duty of the Secretary of State to forward certified copies thereof to the clerk of the circuit of each of said counties of Lake and Porter.

JOHN S. SIMONSON,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
GEO. LOYDE S. ORTH,  
President of the Senate.

Approved December 22, 1845: JAMES WHITCOMB, Governor of Indiana.

State of Indiana to wit: I, John H. Thompson, Secretary of State, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original roll on file in my office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State at Indianapolis, this 20th day of December, A. D. 1845.  
JOHN H. THOMPSON,  
Secretary of State.

## Free Post Offices for the State Sentinel.

Marion County.—Pikeston, Clermont, Allisonville, Wells's Farm, Germantown, Cumberland, New Bethel Bridgeport, Augusta.

Hendricks County.—Hampton, Plainfield, Belleville, Newsville, Danville, New Winchester, Brownsburg, Springfield, North Salem.

Hamilton County.—Westfield, Noblesville, Strawtown, Cicero.

Bone County.—Lebanon, Thornleysville, Royalton, Uniontown, Eagle Village, Northfield.

Burgess County.—Mooresville, Ellettsville.

Hancock County.—Greenfield, Sugar Creek, Charlestown, Philadelphia, Eden.

Johnson County.—Greenwood, Franklin, Far West.

Shelby County.—Pleasant View, Shelbyville, Morris-town.